

Report to the
People

PROJECTS • PROGRAMS • EVENTS
ATHLETICS • CALENDER OF EVENTS

COMMERCE 2013



SEASON'S GREETINGS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Commerce Projects

Commerce began and completed many projects in 2013. Two major projects ready to begin are the Central Library Renovation Project and the Washington Boulevard Reconstruction Project. The City also anticipates additional project planning in 2014 with the revenue from Measure AA. Here are a few highlights from 2013.



The Safe Routes to School Project near Rosewood Park School included lit crosswalks, speed feedback signs, sidewalk repairs, minor street repairs, new stop signs and road striping.

From the desk of the City Administrator

Welcome to our 'Year in Review' issue. Throughout 2013 we worked hard to ensure Commerce residents and businesses had a source of information like the Report to the People to help them stay informed about what was going on in the community.

In this issue we look back at everything, including projects that were completed like the Bristow neighborhood street repairs and the City's new Emergency Operations Center, as well as at projects just underway, like the Central Library Renovation.

We also look back at highlights from programs and events like Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day and the Commerce to College Fair, which we hope you enjoyed.

Another great event was the 2013 Miss Commerce Pageant. As with every year, it provided young ladies from Commerce with an opportunity to show their pride in their community, as well as their talent and willingness to serve. Thank you to all of the participants and to Miss Commerce Shanese Perea and her Royal Court who have done an outstanding job representing the City throughout the year.

Parks and Recreation isn't the only department providing the community with fun events and activities. In fact, the Commerce Central Library hosted great events this year like Read Across America, the Summer Reading Program for kids, teens and adults, as well as Back to School Night, Star Wars Reads Day and Teen Tech Week.

The Library also continued to support students with programs like Homework Help and the Commerce Scholarship Program, as well as the Commerce to College Fair. Programs like these provide Commerce youth with an opportunity to get the help they need to achieve a good education and a viable path to college.

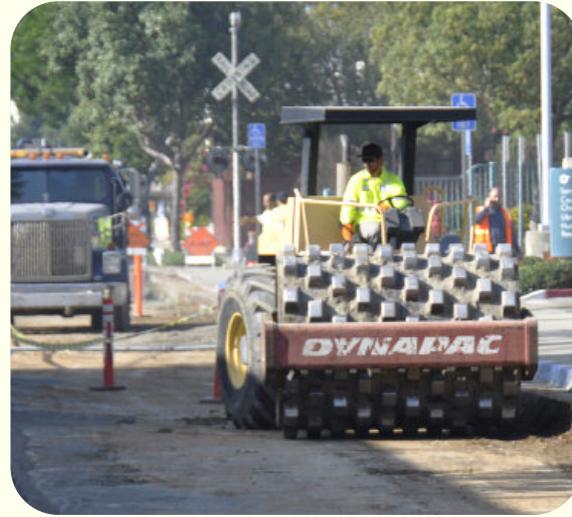
The City's park programs emphasized health while library programs encouraged literacy and education. We also provide our young residents with opportunities for social development and engagement through events like the Community Volunteer Day of Service and the City's partnership with the Citadel Outlets for the Commerce Clean Up.

Getting people where they want to be is also a priority to the City Council. The City has made great strides on this front by improving our surface streets and transportation infrastructure over the last twelve months. This includes street resurfacing projects in Bristow and Rosewood, as well as establishing the Citadel Outlets Express bus service. The Citadel Express began providing free public transportation service to and from Downtown Los Angeles in December of 2012 and increased ridership throughout the year.

The City also partnered with County Supervisor Gloria Molina's Office to stop the planned opening of a County AB 109 parolee center and to expand the El Sol Shuttle Service, which started serving residents in the Bristow Park area in September. We thank her for her support. In that same month the City's Transportation Department launched the new Metrolink Commuter Shuttle Service to improve public transportation options and reduce pollution, as well as the number of cars on the road.

Although we accomplished a great deal this year we look forward to doing much more in 2014. It is my privilege to continue serving as your city administrator and to once again wish you all happy holidays and a terrific new year.

Sincerely,
Jorge Rifá



Street repairs at Jillson Street greatly improved the aesthetics around Commerce's Civic Center and the Rosewood Park residential area.



Upgrades to the City's Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling station were completed this year. The improvements, which have increased the royalty payments the City receives, were paid for by Clean Energy Fuels at no cost to Commerce.



The City's new state-of-the-art Emergency Operations Center opened in the fall and will be officially dedicated early next year. The fire resistant structure will feature an audio visual system, an auxiliary power source and additional space.



The award-winning Commerce Transportation Department worked with outside agencies to bring several new transportation options to residents. The Citadel Express bus line connects Commerce to Downtown Los Angeles including stops at Union Station, L.A. Live and Staples Center. Commerce also launched a Metrolink Commuter Shuttle Service that connects passengers that travel to the East 26th Street station to regional transit networks including Commerce's free bus system, Montebello Bus Lines and Metro. Additionally, the East Los Angeles El Sol Shuttle service began serving the Bristow area with three new stops in the neighborhood giving residents a low-cost or free transportation option to destinations throughout East Los Angeles. All transit systems operated by the City are free.

Commerce Programs

Commerce is well known for the outstanding and low cost programs it offers residents. Whether it is educational, recreational or community improvement, the City offers something for everyone. Residents are also encouraged to join a civic or service club. Many of the clubs work with the City on programs and events. For more information call the Parks and Recreation office at (323) 887-4434.



In partnership with the Commerce Hotel and Casino and other area businesses, the City of Commerce awards local scholars with scholarship money for college. This year the Commerce scholarship program granted 52 scholarships totaling \$80,000.



Commerce maintains their own highly-trained Urban Search and Rescue Team to respond to emergency situations. The 20-member team is made up of City employees who train monthly alongside the Los Angeles County Fire Department.



Over 200 dogs were vaccinated at the City's annual rabies and pet licensing clinic held at Rosewood Park this summer. Families from throughout the area brought their four-legged family members for licensing which is required in the City.



As part of the Miss Commerce program, Miss Commerce 2012 Unique Hernandez, initiated an event to bond with the youngest residents called the Queen's Tea Party. This year's tea party will expand to include boys dressed in their finest prince costume.



Preschoolers celebrated their last day of school with a pool party. The City offers both a stellar preschool program and internationally renowned aquatics program. Many of the City's children learn how to swim as soon as they can walk.



In addition to dances, classes and excursions specific to the more seasoned crowd, the Senior Center also offers free health screenings, flu shots and food assistance on scheduled days. To learn more about the Senior Center, call (323) 887-4430.



For over 50 years, the Commerce Preschool Program has provided a safe and healthy learning environment for its youngest residents. This year there were 104 graduates from all four parks.



Each spring, the City hosts its annual Spring Clean Up. This year residents disposed of 3,200 lbs of E-waste and other unwanted items and shredded 25 boxes of documents with help from Commerce businesses e-Waste Center and SafeShred.

Commerce Events

Community comes from people getting to know one another by spending time together. Commerce provides members of the public with opportunities to participate in outstanding events throughout the year that emphasize social interaction, tradition, enhanced quality of life and fun. In 2013 the City hosted or participated in many events including Cinco de Mayo & Independence Day Celebrations, the Miss Commerce Pageant, the Citadel Commerce Job Fair, the Commerce to College Fair, Veterans Day and many others.



Residents enjoyed a three day carnival as part of the Annual Fourth of July celebration.



Miss Fourth of July Daniela Gomez, helped kick off the event that included a spectacular fireworks show as well as food, games and entertainment.



Young residents took over the City as part of the City's Student Government Day. High School seniors received a first-hand look at what it takes to run a City. From Councilmember to Community Services Officer, students learned it is a team effort.



The "Kids Are Cute" Baby Pageant and the City's Garden Club Garden Show were combined with the Annual Cinco de Mayo celebration. Also added to the day's activities were a boxing showcase and the Hot Shots season opener.



Veterans Park hosted Commerce's annual Relay for Life, a 24-hour event to honor cancer patients and survivors. Approximately 700 people participated or volunteered and more than \$29,000 was raised for cancer research and education. Registration has already begun for the April 2014 event. Visit www.relayforlife.org and type in 90040 in the "My Relay" section for more information.



To honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., residents, businesses and city staff joined Americans across the country in a Day of Service. Volunteers spent the morning cleaning tree wells, weeding, repainting red curbs and removing graffiti in the Bristow Park neighborhood.



The Freedom Run, held in conjunction with the Annual Fourth of July celebration, is a popular event that brings families and neighbors together to engage in a fun and healthy activity. The route takes participants through the beautiful Rosewood Park residential neighborhood.



Miss Commerce Shanese Perea with Miss Clippers Alyssa Rubio & Miss Cinco de Mayo Kimberly Jimenez at the Summer Safari Movie Night kick off held in July. Summer Safari Movie Nights were held every Friday throughout the summer to provide Commerce youth and families with a free, fun activity.



The City of Commerce once again partnered with the Citadel Outlets to host the Annual Community Job Fair that drew approximately 100 employers and thousands of job seekers. This partnership has served as a valuable resource for connecting businesses and jobseekers for the past 5 years.



This year the Citadel Outlets featured the world's largest Christmas tree at their tree lighting ceremony just two days after holding a bow lighting ceremony for the world's largest bow, which will sit atop the main building of the Citadel throughout the holiday season.



Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard spoke at the City's Annual Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11. Roybal-Allard is the wife of a veteran and staunch advocate of veteran's issues and affairs.



Commerce resident and U.S. Air Force Veteran Vince Diaz recites the Oath of Enlistment with his fellow veterans at the City of Commerce Annual Veterans Day Ceremony. The City holds the event every year to honor our Nation's veterans and acknowledge active duty members of the U.S. Military.



A large group of residents joined the City Council and Miss Dodgers Brigit Escobar at Dodger Stadium to catch the "Boys in Blue" in their ascent to the playoffs. Commerce residents enjoyed a last-minute, late-night, Dodger win.



This 'skeledog' was a happy participant at the annual City of Commerce Halloween parade, which drew hundreds of participants at each of the City's four parks to celebrate Halloween.



This young man waits patiently for someone to say "Beetlejuice" three times at the City of Commerce Halloween Parade.



The Commerce Boy Scouts Troop #473 leads the march for U.S. Army veterans at the City of Commerce Annual Veterans Day Ceremony. Also assisting at the ceremony were the Commerce Cub Scout Pack #473 and the Commerce Girl Scout Troop of the Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles.

Commerce Athletics

The City offers youth sports including: baseball, basketball, boxing, flag football, soccer, softball, swimming, volleyball and water polo. The sports division also coordinates the adult sports program which includes: basketball, coed softball, coed volleyball, karate, men's baseball and men's softball. For more information about the City's sports programs, contact Sports Coordinator Frank Garcia at 323-887-4432.



Many of Commerce's young residents learned valuable teamwork skills while developing their hand eye coordination and athletic ability in the City's Hot Shots Tee Ball program, which kicked off their season at the Cinco de Mayo Celebration.



Commerce resident, boxer and future Olympic hopeful Pauline Viesca is the USA Boxing Regional, District and State Champion for the 12-13 year old girls group.



Pictured here are members of the Commerce Swim Team with a trophy marking their victory at a swim meet held at the Brenda Villa Aquatic Center in March.



The City's boxing program hosted a tournament with many of our local athletes winning their bouts.



The Commerce Crush Volleyball Team celebrated their 20th year of competition with another successful year that culminated with three top ten finishes at the SOIREE Tournament.



Residents of all ages including organized adult leagues also use the City facilities for various sports like basketball, volleyball, handball and racquetball. Veterans Park also features a putting green and driving range.



Commerce's youth have a variety of options to keep them active throughout the year, including clubs and recreational activities at the Teen Center and City parks.



Keeping our kids active really is a community effort. Smart & Final generously donated \$1,000 to Commerce's traveling soccer team to help with equipment and travel expenses. The City would like to thank all of its community sponsors that contribute throughout the year.



From l. to r. Arlin De La Mora, Isabella Gorricino, Denise Cervantes, Daniela Hernandez, Jenel Rivera, Stephanie Contreras and Meghan Nevarez of the Commerce Women's Water Polo Team continued the program's proud tradition of academics and athletics. All seven will compete at their respective colleges.



DECEMBER 2013

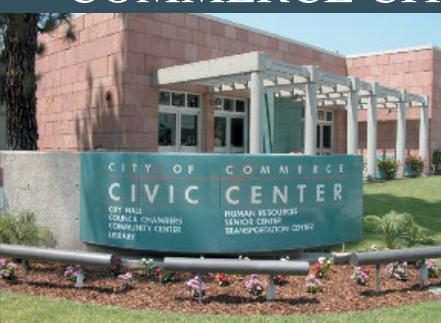
COMMERCE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																											
1	2 Central Library closed for renovations Community Tree Lighting City Hall 6 p.m. English Book Club 6 p.m.	3 City Council/Successor Agency 6:30 p.m. 	4 Senior Citizens Commission 12:30 p.m.	5 Parks & Recreation Commission 6 p.m.	6	7 Library Children's Holiday Program Council Chamber 10 a.m.																																											
8 	9 Education Commission 6 p.m.	10	11 Traffic Commission 6:30 p.m.	12 Holiday Cheer Program Registration Ends Community Services Commission 6 p.m.	13 Tiny Pajama Party Bandini Park 6:30 - 8 p.m.	14 Children's Holiday Faire Veterans Park 10 a.m.																																											
15	16 Central Library temporary location opens	17 Library Embajadores Meeting 6 p.m. City Council/Successor Agency 6:30 p.m. 	18 Planning Commission 6:30 p.m.	19	20	21																																											
22	23	24	25 Christmas Day City Hall & Libraries Closed 	26	27	28																																											
29	30	31	 <p>CENTRAL LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED FROM NOV. 28 - DEC. 15</p> <p>for relocation to a temporary building. The temporary library will open on Dec. 16 and will be located in the west City Hall/Library parking lot. The three branch libraries will be open to the public.</p>			<p>January 2014</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>M</td> <td>T</td> <td>W</td> <td>T</td> <td>F</td> <td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
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Report to the People RTTP Artículos en Español Si le interesa recibir la versión en Español de algún artículo, por favor llame a la Oficina de Información Pública al (323) 887-4447. Cuando llame, indique el título del artículo, la fecha y la dirección de su domicilio o correo electrónico. La versión traducida se le mandará.

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COMMERCE CITY COUNCIL




Joe Aguilar, Mayor
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 Ivan Altamirano, Councilmember
 Tina Baca Del Rio, Councilmember
 Denise M. Robles, Councilmember

Important Phone Numbers

City Hall (323) 722-4805	E.L.A. Sheriff's (323) 264-4151
Code Enforcement Ext. 2293	Graffiti Hotline (323) 887-4444
Animal Control	Emergency 911
M-F 8 am to 6 pm (323) 887-4460	www.ci.commerce.ca.us
Weekends/Evenings (562) 940-6898	

2535 Commerce Way · Commerce, CA 90040

Residential Customer
Season's Greetings and Happy New Year



CITY OF COMMERCE
Holiday Cheer Program

'Helping Commerce Families During the Holidays'

Commerce families can sign up at the Department of Community Services for Holiday Help during the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday Season

Applicants need proof of income and a valid Commerce Resident Card

To sign up or for more information, call Community Services at (323) 887-4460

City of Commerce • Department of Parks and Recreation Presents

'TOYLAND' COMMUNITY TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY



Monday, December 2
6 p.m. At the steps of City Hall 2535 Commerce Way, Commerce

Featuring:
• Live Entertainment • Warm drinks and snacks • A visit from Santa Claus

The Holiday season is a time of giving. Residents are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy for donations to less fortunate children in our community.
Bus shuttles from local parks will be provided.
For more information, call Parks and Recreation at (323) 887-4434.

CITY OF COMMERCE CENTRAL LIBRARY

CLOSED

NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 15, 2013



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Renovation of the Commerce Central Library is coming!

The Central Library will close Nov. 28 - Dec. 15 for relocation to a temporary building. The temporary library will be open on December 16th and will be located in the west City Hall/Library parking lot. Materials due at Central Library will not be due at this time until December 16th.
During this time we invite you to visit our three library branches throughout the city. The three branch libraries will be open and operational during this time. Please visit www.cocpl.org for more information, branch library locations, and updates.
Thank you and we appreciate your patience during this time as we begin the renovation of your library.

Frequently Asked Questions: Technolo-

Exide Technologies Emissions

Recently Commerce and other area residents near the Exide Technologies facility in Vernon were mailed a "notice of extension of deadline for submitting proofs of claim" and a claim form from the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware, with which Exide has filed for bankruptcy.

Per the court, individuals may file personal injury claims against Exide Technologies if injury is thought to be related to the operation of the Vernon Exide facility. Below is information from the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), which is responsible for protecting people and the environment from harmful effects of toxic substances and the California Air Quality Management District (AQMD), which seeks to protect public health from air pollution, as well as the Federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Q: What is Exide Technologies and what issues has it created?
A: Exide Technologies is a corporation that operates a secondary lead smelting facility in the City of Vernon which recovers lead from recycled automotive batteries.
According to the AQMD, Exide has had re-

curring operational problems this year and a troubled compliance history over the past several years, which includes excess emissions of lead and arsenic. Also, per the AQMD, the release of these highly toxic metals has imposed a significant health risk to people living or working in the surrounding area.

Q: What is the current status of the Exide facility?
A: The facility is currently in operation, however the South Coast Air Quality Management District has asked an independent administrative law panel for an order to halt lead smelting operations at the plant "until its air pollution control systems are improved and deemed adequate" to control toxic emissions. The hearing process is expected to take two to three months and to include at least one public meeting.

Q: What potential health risks are posed by lead and arsenic emissions from the Exide facility to people who live or work in Commerce or other areas near the plant?
A: According to the CDC, arsenic is a known

carcinogen that can increase the risk of skin cancer and cancer in the liver, bladder, and lungs. Other health issues associated with arsenic exposure include sore throat or irritated lungs, nausea and vomiting, decreased production of red and white blood cells, abnormal heart rhythm, damage to blood vessels, a sensation of "pins and needles" in hands and feet, and circulatory and peripheral nervous disorders. Long term exposure can cause a darkening of the skin and the appearance of small "corns" or "warts" on the palms, soles, and torso. Skin contact may cause redness and swelling. There is some data suggesting that inhalation of inorganic arsenic may also interfere with normal fetal development.

Lead is toxic to adults and children. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) the adverse health effects of lead exposure in children includes intellectual and behavioral deficits.

Q: What can members of the public do?
A: The following are actions that area residents can take:
• Submit the claim form that you received in the mail along with proof of injury (for ex-

ample blood test results, medical documentation, etc.). If you did not receive the form, you can view and print it online at www.ci.commerce.ca.us. The original filing date of October 31, 2013 has been moved to January 31, 2014 in response to a request by State Senators Kevin de Leon (Los Angeles) and Ricardo Lara (Long Beach).

• Attend the upcoming community meeting(s). Date and times have yet to be determined.
• Contact your local State legislators. For Commerce they are Senator Ron Calderon, (323) 890-2790, www.sd30.senate.ca.gov/ and Assemblymember Cristina Garcia, 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia, California 90701, (562)402-4893, www.asmdc.org/members/a58/.

For more information, visit the AQMD website at www.aqmd.gov or the DTSC at www.dtsc.ca.gov.